

TOWN OF WOLFEBORO DELIBERATIVE SESSION
Minutes
February 2, 2021
Kingswood Art Center

Being 7:00 PM Moderator Randy Walker called the session to order. He entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

➤ ***Welcome and Introductions***

Moderator Walker introduced the following Town Officials present this evening:

Budget Committee members: Chairman John MacDonald, John Burt, Bob Mulholland, Bob Loughman, Steve Johnson, Matthew Plache and Brian Black.

Board of Selectmen members: Chairman Brad Harriman, Dave Senecal, Linda Murray and Paul O'Brien.

Staff and others: Town Manager James S. Pineo, Finance Director Kathryn Carpentier Electric Department Director Barry Muccio, Public Works Director David Ford, Fire Chief Norm Skantze, Police Chief Dean Rondeau, Police Captain Mark Livie, Tax Collector Brenda LaPointe, Parks & Recreation Director Christine Collins, and Planning and Development Director Matthew Sullivan.

Moderator Walker explained the process of the Deliberative Session and the purpose of the meeting is to determine the form of the articles for the ballot on March 9, 2021. He stated there are 36 warrant articles in total and they will not discuss Articles, 1-6 (1 relates to the election of candidates and 2 - 6 are relative to Planning and Zoning articles which already had their own public hearings).

Warrant Articles

Article 7: ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION CONVERSION PHASE #6 FUNDING

Moderator Walker read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000) for the purpose of constructing and converting the distribution system voltage from 4KV to 12.47KV on North Main Street from Forest Road, north to the end of Circuit 2-1: further, to authorize the issuance of One Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000) in bonds or notes for this project in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes, and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and the maturity, and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Notwithstanding the general obligation nature of the bonds, it is the intention that this project shall be

paid by surplus funds of the Electric Enterprise Fund and will not result in any increase in the electric rate.

No Tax Rate Impact:

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

3/5 majority vote required

Paul O'Brien introduced the article supported by the Board of Selectmen and gave a summary of the proposed project to continue replacement of the utility service from Forest Road to Tuftonboro. He stated this project will address not only aging poles but the reliability of the old service that has experienced brown outs at peak times of the year.

Barry Muccio addressed the Article by reviewing the PowerPoint presentation that summarizes the intent of the project to address the last of the large conversion upgrades to the system that has taken place over the last 20 years. The project has already been built into the electric rate and will not have any effect on the tax rate.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as read.

ARTICLE 8: RAPID INFILTRATION BASIN (RIB) SITE UPGRADE (STATE REVOLVING FUND)

Moderator Walker read the article as follows;

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,800,000) for the purpose of making upgrades to the Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIB) site to bring it into compliance with the State permit, including construction, watershed management and land acquisition. Further, to authorize the issuance of Three Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,800,000) in bonds or notes for this project in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes, and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and the maturity, and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and that may reduce the amount to be repaid, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486.14 established for this purpose and to allow the Board of Selectmen to expend such monies as become available from the Federal and State governments and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action or to pass any other vote relating thereto. Principal and Interest payments for this bond shall come from the lawsuit settlement therefore this project will not result in any increase in the tax rate.

No Tax Rate Impact

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

3/5 majority vote required

Linda Murray addressed the article stating that the proposed project is part of the final solution to address the RIB projects as a result of the administrative order. She provided

history of when the order was placed and the solutions leading up to today with this being the final phase of that.

It was moved by Linda Murray and seconded to amend Article 8: Libby Museum Capital Reserve Fund RAPID INFILTRATION BASIN (RIB) SITE UPGRADE (STATE REVOLVING FUND to reduce the dollar amount to Three Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$3, 500,000)).

DISCUSSION:

Dave Ford addressed the Board and stated that today was the bid opening on this project and the reduction in price reflects the results of that bid.

Moderator Walker called for the vote: Being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Dave Ford reviewed the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the project that addressed the final phase of the site upgrades.

Suzanne Ryan questioned where the funds that are left over will go, back to the lawsuit fund?

Mr. Ford replied in the Sewer Fund, which is where the lawsuit funds are.

Ms. Ryan questioned if Woodard and Curran will continue to operate the facility.

Mr. Ford replied that they are the contract operator for the plant and on the last year of a five year contract.

Ms. Ryan clarified that we are at this stage as a result of the original administrative order which lead us to this pilot project.

Mr. Ford replied yes the project looked at many options and alternatives over the years. This is the final year and this will meet the last issue in that order. It was started as a pilot and will become the long term solution.

Ms. Ryan questioned what the life span of this is? She heard at the Board of Selectmen meeting 50 years and at the Budget Committee 20 years.

Mr. Ford replied that he is confident it will last 50 years.

Ms. Ryan questioned if the Treatment Plant is at the end of its useful life span.

Mr. Ford replied yes that is correct and that infrastructure will be the next item to address next year.

Ms. Ryan questioned has the RIB been built to handle expansion or does the state plan to cap it.

Mr. Ford replied it can handle 340,000 gallons a day.

ARTICLE 9: RECREATIONAL DOCK REPAIRS

Moderator Walker read the article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000) for the purpose of reconstructing and upgrading the Wolfeboro Bay recreational finger docks B, C, D, E, F, and G; further, to authorize the issuance of Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000) in bonds or notes for this project in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes, and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and the maturity, and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all the laws applicable to said project. And to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact

2021- \$0.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation

2022 - \$0.05 per \$1,000 assessed valuation

2023 - \$0.04 per \$1,000 assessed valuation

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

3/5 majority vote required

Linda Murray introduced the article and explained that the Town docks are used extensively and the time has come to address the situation.

Paul O'Brien stated added that the Town revived the Ad Hoc Dock Committee who started meeting at the end of last summer on how to move forward with this project. All the information relative to what the Committee reviewed is on the Town website under the Ad Hoc Dock Committee page.

Mr. Ford addressed the article and referred to the PowerPoint summary outlining the plan.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the bonding schedule, which will be a 10 year bond.

Ms. Ryan questioned special warrant articles.

Mr. Carpentier replied that it is relative to lapsing vs. non-lapsing.

Ms. Ryan questioned the timeframe.

Mr. Carpentier replied five years after the vote.

Kathy Tetreault addressed the article and read a letter of support on behalf of the Economic Development Committee. (See attached letter #1)

**ARTICLE 10: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
(STATE REVOLVING FUND)**

Moderator Walker read the article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of developing an asset Management Program for the Waste Water Treatment Plant that will qualify the Town for federal and state funds, further to authorize the issuance of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) in bonds or notes under and in compliance with the provisions of RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes, and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and the maturity, and other terms thereof; additionally to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal and state, or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and that may reduce the amount to be repaid, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486.14 established for this purpose; and to allow the Board of Selectmen to expend such monies as become available from the Federal and State governments; and authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relating thereto. This project is subject to loan forgiveness as outlined by the State Revolving Fund therefore the project will not result in any increase in the tax rate

No Tax Rate Impact:

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

3/5 majority vote required

Mr. Harriman introduce the article and stated Mr. Ford would explain the loan forgiveness program.

Mr. Ford addressed the Board and reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on this project and explained that this program will qualify for the State of NH's Revolving Fund, and be reimbursed for such funds.

Being no questions or comments, Moderator Walker read the article as follows:

ARTICLE 11: Recreational Dock Extension (Special)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300, 000) for the purposed of extending the Wolfeboro Bay recreational finger docks B, C, D, and E. Should warrant article #9 titled Recreational Dock Repairs fail, this article for the dock extension shall be null and void. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2026 or upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$.126 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-4

Majority vote required

Mr. O'Brien introduced the article noting it was originally combined with the repair article, but it was recommend by the Budget Committee and others to split the projects. He stated this extension will provide 20 additional spaces and the results of that increase economic activity.

Mr. Ford provided a summary of the PowerPoint explaining the project and that the project bid has come in.

Kathy Tetreault read a statement on behalf of the Economic Development Committee in support of this project.

Mike Hodder addressed the article and stated he does not supporting this article as this project is not scheduled on the CIP schedule until 2024, with uncertain times he feels this is not the time to do this project.

It was moved by Mike Hodder and seconded to amend Article 11: Recreational Dock Extension (Special) to zero (\$0).

DISCUSSION:

Suzanne Ryan addressed the article and stated that she supports the amendment and noted that Back Bay also has docks that can be used. She feels this a want not a need.

Mary DeVries addressed the article and stated that the Back Bay docks are used heavily and pointed it out the article is support by the Board of Selectmen and four Budget Committee members. She feels the voters have supported increase parking whether by land or boat, she feels they should be given the opportunity to cast their vote.

Roger Murray pointed out it seems it would be less expensive to do it now, when they make the repairs.

Mr. Ford replied that is unknown, it would need to be rebid at that time.

Brian Black stated that it would make more sense to do this project with the repair project.

Mike Hodder called the question to terminate debate.

Moderator Walker called for the vote: Being majority in opposed, the motion failed.

Mr. Plache questions how many bids were received.

Mr. Ford replied two bids, but one bidder was not qualified. Chesterfield was awarded the bid and will use a local contractor.

Suzanne Ryan stated she is proposing a date change and would like to see getting this done and not lapsing it for a number of years since it will be completed in 2022.

It was moved by Suzanne Ryan and seconded to amend Article 11: Recreation Dock Extension to change the lapse date to December 31, 2023. Moderator Walker called for the vote: Being majority in favor, the motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles; 7-11, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Moderator Walker read the article as follows:

ARTICLE 12: Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Wolfeboro raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$28,653,102. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$28,304,031, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Wolfeboro or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$4.63 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1)

Majority vote required

John MacDonald reviewed a PowerPoint summarizing the decreases/increases in the proposed Operating Budget. He thanked the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and staff for all their hard work on the budget.

Suzanne Ryan questioned page 5 & page 10 with regards to the \$225,901 and what is this for?

Kathryn Carpentier replied that is for the Pop Whalen Enterprise Fund.

Ms. Ryan questioned if funds are being used from the fund balance to cover expenses from the roads, fire truck and dispatch console and why not being used to offset the tax rate.

John MacDonald agreed, the funds should be used to offset the tax rate and not in the bank.

Moderator Walker stated he has received a request to amend Warrant Article 12 to add \$8,500 in the Police Department Part time wages budget to fund a Juvenile Services Officer.

It was moved and seconded to amend Article 12: Operating Budget to increase it by \$ 8,500 (eight thousand five hundred dollars) and to further request that the Board of Selectmen direct said funds to line number 1-42100-117, Part Time Wages in the Police Department Budget, for the creation of a part time Juvenile Services Officer.

DISCUSSION:

Steve Wood addressed the article and introduced himself as the Chairman of the Wolfeboro Police Commission read a statement explaining why the Wolfeboro Police Commission respectfully asks for support on this amendment.

Steve Johnson stated the Budget Committee spent a lot of time debating the requests for the budget and stated he is surprised at this request coming in this way. He requests the support of the work that the Budget Committee did to present this budget.

Schelley Rondeau stated as the Wolfeboro Health Officer and local pediatric nurse, she feels this is important to have to keep our youth from ending up in jail.

Chief Rondeau stated that although he respects the Budget Committee's logic, he has a part time Prosecutor who is currently overworked and that hiring additional help at the County level is not comparing apples to apples and feels this ask is important to fund.

Jody Pearson addressed the article and stated he is running for one of the open seats on the Board of Selectmen and the town supports spending \$300,000 on expanding the docks, but doesn't support the youth. He supports this amendment.

Mike Hodder questioned if this is something they could try for a year and provide the backup data of what it accomplished?

Bobbi Boudman stated she worked in Los Angeles with gangs and they worked hard to get them into rehabilitation programs and wondered why we are not doing that here. She'd like to see the Parks and Recreation Department collaborate with the Police Department.

John MacDonald stated the Police Department has a \$1.8 million dollar budget, he feels they could find the \$8,500 need for this program within their budget.

Steve Wood replied that the current budget is already programed based on the data presented.

Moderator Walker called for the vote: Being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Suzanne Ryan questioned if there is enough in the fund balance to cover this proposed expenditure.

Kathryn Carpentier replied at the end of 2019 \$4.279 million was the balance and what is proposed to be used is \$1.3 million leaving the balance below what is recommended at 7.6%.

John Burt addressed the question and replied it does not matter what the fund balance is, this is not an authorized expenditure of the fund balance.

Ms. Carpentier replied Mr. Burt is correct and that fund balance is not used to offset the operating budget.

Moderator Walker read the article as follows:

ARTICLE: 13 Pop Whalen Enterprise Fund Advisory

To see if the voters are in favor of having the board of selectmen investigate the purpose for which the Pop Whalen Enterprise Fund was established. Further To determine if the voters are willing to have the board of Selectmen investigate making changes to the purpose of the Pop Whalen Enterprise fund. These changes may include building and infrastructure related capital expenses being funded by general taxation rather than by the Pop Whalen Enterprise fund.

Any change to the purpose of the pop Whalen enterprise fund shall be brought to the voters at a subsequent town meeting.

Mr. Senecal introduced the article and noted it is not a monetary article.

Suzanne Ryan stated she supports this article as the Pop Whalen Ice Arena is in the hole and hopes the town further explores making the revenues and expenditures more neutral. She questioned the balance of this fund.

Ms. Carpentier replied she would need a minute to get that answer.

Moderator Walker stated while she looks up the answer we will move on to the next article.

Article 14: Pop Whalen Ice Arena Building Repairs (Special)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) from general taxation and not from the Pop Whalen Enterprise Fund for the purpose of providing professional design services for, roof, insulation, dehumidification, electrical upgrades, and to develop a scope of work for repairs to the Pop Whalen Ice Arena. This appropriation in non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2022, or upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.53 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)
Majority vote required

Mr. Senecal introduced the article to make the necessary repairs to this facility.

Christine Collins stated that this will cover the professional services to provide a plan on what is needed to make repairs to the 33 year old building that is lacking a dehumidification systems and has other needed repairs.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

ARTICLE: 15 Police Commissioners' Stipend Increase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for the purpose of increasing the Police Commissioners' stipends. It is anticipated that for the next five years the Police Commissioners' yearly stipend of Three Thousand One Hundred dollars (\$3,100) will be included in the General Fund Operating Budget.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.001 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-2)
(Recommended by the Police Commission by a vote of 3-0)
Majority vote required

Mr. Senecal introduced the article and stated that it was deemed a reasonable request.

Suzanne Ryan stated she feels it is unclear what they receive currently.

Chief Rondeau replied that the workload has increased for the Commission and there hasn't been an increase in pay in sometime.

Steve Wood replied that they are requesting to increase it from \$1,600 for all Commissioners to \$3,100.

Kathryn Carpentier noted the article language is recommended by DRA. She noted that at Article 14, Ms. Ryan questioned the Pop Whalen balance, which is \$610,000, but this is not a cash balance.

Ms. Ryan based on this information she was going to make an amendment based on fund balance, but since there is no fund balance and she received no second, the motion failed.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows;

ARTICLE: 16 AFSCME Contract Agreement

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the one year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and Local #534 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels

Year		Estimated Increase
2021	Wages:	\$39,003
2021	Benefits:	\$8,468
2021	Total Increase:	\$47,471

And further to raise and appropriate (\$47,471) for the current fiscal year: such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in wages and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$.02 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote 5 -0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote 8-1)

Majority Vote Required

Mr. Senecal introduced the article which is negotiated with the union and is the same contract as last year.

Article 17: Fire Department Ladder Truck Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$1,380,000) for the purchase of a new fire department aerial Ladder Truck. This purchase shall be paid for by transferring Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) from the existing Fire Truck and Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. Passage of this article will also authorize funds in the amount of Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000) from the Town's Unassigned Fund balance to be used to pay for the balance of this purchase. This expenditure will not result in any increase in the 2021 tax rate.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.000 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-2)

Majority vote required

Norm Skantze addressed the Board and reviewed the PowerPoint summarizing the truck will need replacement sooner than previously scheduled because it did not pass its last inspection.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 18: Town Road Upgrades

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$650,000) for the purpose of upgrading Town roads, sidewalks, and drainage systems. To authorize funds in the amount of Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$550,000) from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance to be used to pay for these road upgrades. Furthermore, passage of this article will authorize One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) in funds shall be raised by general taxation. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2022 or, upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.042 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)

Majority vote required

Mr. Senecal introduced the article and noted this is the annual road maintenance request.

Mr. Ford reviewed the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the annual work. He also commended the staff for all the hard work and dedication and noted they had been out over the last twenty four hours plowing the roads.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 19: High and Park Street Upgrades

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Eighty One Thousand Dollars (\$881,000) for the purpose of upgrading High and Park Streets. Funds shall be utilized for

engineering fees, storm water drainage systems, the replacement of water and sewer mains and rebuilding the roadways.

Three Hundred Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$345,000) from the Water Enterprise Fund shall be for the purpose of engineering and replacing the existing water mains which service High and Park Streets. Five Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$536,000) from general taxation shall be for the purpose of engineering and replacing the existing sewer main in High Street, storm water drainage systems and rebuilding of High and Park Streets. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2026 or, upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact 2021: \$0.226 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)

Majority vote required

Mr. Senecal introduced the article of the two roads that run parallel to each other that are in need of upgrades.

Mr. Ford reviewed the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the work to be done and noted they have recently had some significant water main breaks in this location.

Suzanne Ryan questioned why they did not fund the entire project from the enterprise fund?

Mr. Ford replied that Wolfeboro has some of the highest rates in the state and the sewer capital projects are paid through taxation of the general fund.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles; 14-19, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 20: Railroad Avenue Layout

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of laying out the gravel section of Railroad Avenue, installation of drainage and the paving of the gravel section including parking spaces and gravel parking spaces. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2022 or, upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.042 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)

Majority vote required

Mrs. Murray introduced the article to layout Railroad Avenue.

Mr. Ford reviewed the PowerPoint that summarizes the project, he stated this project was previously discuss but was delayed.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 21: Sewer Pump Station Engineering

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of conducting preliminary engineering of the Lehner and Mill Street sewer pump stations. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2022, or upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: \$0.042 2021 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)
Majority vote required

Mr. Harriman introduced the article for the engineering of the pump station.

Mr. Ford reviewed the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the project.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows;

Article 22: Library Generator

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five thousand Dollars (\$75,000) being funded by general taxation for the purpose of purchasing and installing an emergency generator at the Wolfeboro Public Library. Further, to authorize the Selectmen to accept grants, gifts, donations or pledges for this purpose which shall be used to reduce the amount to be expended from general taxation This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2022, or upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.032 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1)
Majority vote required

Mr. Harriman introduced the article and explained this would allow the Library to function during power outages and also provide a secondary emergency shelter if needed.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 23: Police Vehicle Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Seven Thousand Seventy Seven Dollars (\$57,077) for the purchase of a new Police vehicle and ancillary vehicle equipment. Said appropriation to be offset by One Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$1,500) which represents a portion of accumulated revenue in the Special Police Detail Revolving Fund created by Article 23 in 2006 which has accumulated from special details in prior years and Fifty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy Seven Dollars (\$55,577) from general taxation.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.023 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1)
(Recommended by the Police Commission by a vote of 3-0)
Majority vote required

Mr. O'Brien introduced the article and stated this would put a 10th cruiser in the rotation, the department currently has 14 officers.

Chief Rondeau replied that this is how the department responds to calls and they need the vehicles to get there.

John MacDonald questioned if they plan to purchase a new cruiser every year.

Chief Rondeau replied yes.

Mr. MacDonald questioned how many cruisers they have for 14 officers.

Chief Rondeau replied 11.

Mr. MacDonald stated that Conway Police Department has 24 fulltime officers and 12 cruisers, he does not understand why Wolfeboro needs 11 cruiser for 14 officers?

Chief Rondeau replied Conway has 4 Detectives that ride in pairs, so it actually 20 officers.

Steve Wood stated Wolfeboro PD had two incidents that they could not mobilize to the scene due to the lack of vehicles. He stated they have always had a policy of one cruiser in, one out. These cars have a lot of idling hours and seeing cruisers parked at the station is deceiving that they are available.

Bob O'Brien stated the cruisers have to be specially outfitted so it takes months to get them after they are ordered.

Chief Rondeau stated that after 2022 they will see the cost of the cruisers go down.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 24: Water Resources Non-Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000) to establish a Non-Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1-C for the purpose of a watershed management plan including, engineering, design, permitting, best management practices for storm water drainage and nutrient mitigation, grant matching, and education. Said Fund shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore, to authorize the Selectmen as agents to expend from this Non-Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.021 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-3)
Majority vote required

Mrs. Murray introduced the article noting that the committee was previously named the Cyanobacteria Committee that was implemented from the outbreak, from there the committee renamed and expanded the efforts.

Mike Hodder questioned which watershed, as it is not specified?

Mrs. Murray replied this would be for future water quality projects for areas that do not already have their own. The Wolfeboro Water Committee will make such recommendations.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows;

Article 25: Milfoil Eradication Public Expendable Trust

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000) from the Milfoil Joint Board into the Milfoil Eradication Public expendable trust fund for the purpose of milfoil eradication in Back Bay, Lake Wentworth, Crescent Lake, Rust Pond, Sargents Pond, portions of Lake Winnepesaukee within the Town of Wolfeboro's boundaries, and any other water body within the Town of Wolfeboro. Said Fund shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore, the Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend both principal and interest. This will not result in any increase in the 2021 tax rate.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0
Majority Vote Required

Mrs. Murray summarized the history of the Milfoil Joint Board and the DASH units formally used to eradicate milfoil. They had trouble securing contractors who wanted to use the boats the town owned, they have now sold both boats and use contract services to eradicate the milfoil. This article will allow the remaining funds be used to continue to eradicate milfoil in Wolfeboro waters.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 26 Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) to be deposited in the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Reserve Fund, under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore the Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.074 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-1)
Majority Vote Required

Mrs. Murray introduced the article and explained this is the fund used to cover any needed repairs.

Dave Ford referred to the PowerPoint that summarizes the scheduled projects.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 27: Public Works Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Thousand dollars (\$180,000) to be placed in the existing Public Works Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Said Fund shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore the Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.076 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)
Majority vote required

Brad Harriman introduced the article as the fund that is used to replace vehicles and equipment to help not spike the tax rate.

Mr. Ford addressed the PowerPoint and thanked the voters for their support that keeps the fleet in good working condition.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles; 20-27, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 28: Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the existing Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of making needed repairs and performing needed maintenance to the Town's building facilities. Said Fund shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore the Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.032 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-1
Majority vote required

Dave Senecal introduced the next article and stated this is similar to the others, but for the buildings.

Mr. Ford addressed the PowerPoint that summarizes the 23 buildings this account covers.

Moderator read the next article as follows:

Article 29: Bridge Falls Path Lighting Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the existing Bridge Falls Path Lighting Capital Reserve Fund. Said Fund shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore the Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.008 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

Majority vote required

Mr. O'Brien introduced the article that will allow the town to seek bids to make upgrades to the lighting.

Christine Collins reviewed the PowerPoint that outlines the first step in making the plan to upgrade the 20 year old electrical system lighting the Bridge Falls pathway.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 30: Abenaki Ski Area Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the existing Abenaki Ski Area Capital Reserve Fund. Said Fund shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore the Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.008 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)

Majority vote required

Mrs. Murray introduced the article and stated that in 2015 the snowmaking equipment was gifted to the town by the Friends and this is the fund that helps maintain the equipment.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 31: Fire Trucks and Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred ninety six thousand Dollars (\$196,000) to be added to the existing Fire Trucks and Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore the Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.083 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)
Majority vote required

Mr. Harriman introduced the article as the fund that maintains the Fire/Rescue equipment and by doing so can reduce a spike on the tax rate.

Deputy Zotti addressed the article and explained by staying on this annual schedule they are able to replace apparatus without spiking the tax rate.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 32: Dispatch Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be placed in the existing Dispatch Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of replacement of the dispatch console or other related equipment, installation, and other related expenses. To authorize funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance. Furthermore, passage of this article shall authorize Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) in funds shall be raised by general taxation. Said Fund shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Furthermore the Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.021 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)
(Recommended by the Police Commission by a vote of 3-0)
Majority vote required

Chief Rondeau addressed the article to explain this is the fund that will support the replacement of the dispatch console system.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles; 28-32, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 33: Transition to an Appointed Treasurer

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a town treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e, rather than electing a treasurer. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the purpose of compensating the elected treasurer to teach an appointed treasurer the current system of operations

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.001 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)
Majority Vote required

Mr. O'Brien addressed the article to explain that the Treasurer and Finance are two separate functions and our current Treasurer would like to retire and based on the needs of this function the town wishes to change it from an elected position to an appointed position.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 34: Reorganization of the Director of Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Six dollars (\$67,546) for the purpose of hiring a new Director of Public Works. Funding shall represent 6 months of wages and benefits for this position which shall become effective on or after July 1, 2021. The new Director of Public Works shall oversee the Administrative, Highway & Streets, Garage, Solid Waste, and Buildings and Grounds Divisions. This position shall be funded through general taxation.

Further on or around July 1, 2021 the current Director of Public Works and Director of Water and Sewer Utilities shall become the Director of Water and Sewer Utilities and shall oversee the Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Sewer Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Plant Divisions. In addition the Director of Water and Sewer Utilities shall provide project management and engineering support to other town capital projects which may require project management, engineering and permitting. This position is funded from Water and Sewer Utilities budgets.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2021 \$0.28 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0)
(NOT recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 3-5)
Majority Vote Required

Mrs. Murray introduced the article to explain the town history on why the departments were combined in 2005, during a time of crisis management.

Mr. Harriman explained that the current department head has a very full plate and they are aware that the time has come to address that.

Mr. O'Brien added that this will add one new person to the department to offset the workload.

Mr. Senecal added that he speaks in favor of this article to help streamline the work load of this department.

Suzanne Ryan stated she feels that the town has taken on many projects over the last ten years full steam ahead and maybe it is time to slow down. She proposes reducing the job load of that person vs. adding another salary. She noted that within the current budget it is very hard to understand exactly what that department head makes, what is the salary?

James Pineo replied the proposed salary for 2021 is \$130,040, plus insurance the insurance opt makes it \$139, 462.

Suzanne Ryan stated that there is risk when the town takes on the projects vs. the risk being of the company that is hired. She questioned does this mean the town will not use consultants.

Mr. Pineo replied they would still use consultants as they have done in the past. The department head would be in charge of the Water and Sewer Utilities which will provide a better business model to balance and manage consultants.

Suzanne Ryan stated that she has concerned about less job responsibility but at the same pay.

Mr. Pineo stated the current model is no longer sustainable, from the assessment done of this department it was recommend to hire another engineer, this is a result of that recommendation.

Ms. Ryan re-stated she feels they could slow down on the capital projects instead. She questioned the funding source of this model.

Mr. Pineo replied that they are evaluating the administrative cost allocations and that could change the formula.

Suzanne Ryan questioned the concern of the Budget Committee.

John MacDonald replied some of the Committee felt this was not the year to do this.

Bob Loughman stated he disagrees, they need a successor plan in that department.

Chief Rondeau stated a successor plan is good planning and he would support this proposal.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 35: Brewster Beach (Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to direct the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to amend the below listed sections of the Wolfeboro Beach Ordinance as follows:

16-2: a Brewster Beach parking lot access is limited to Wolfeboro residents, taxpayers and guests. Guests include overnight guests at any licensed hotel, motel, inn, boarding house, campground, lodging house, bed and breakfast or housekeeping cottages situated in the Town of Wolfeboro. Guests also include guests of Brewster Academy and participants in scheduled program events, such as swim meets and triathlons.

16-4 (3): a 3-The parking lot at Brewster Beach will require a Wolfeboro Solid Waste Facility sticker or beach pass.

Moderator Walker stated he has two letters that he will read into the record. One is from resident Bob Tougher (Attachment #2) and the other is from Craig Gemmell, Head of Brewster Academy (Attachment #3).

Nancy Hirshberg addressed the article and read her statement opposing this article (Attachment #4).

Mike Hodder addressed the article to ask if the article could be amended after the first word to be deleted.

It was moved and seconded to

To see if the Town will not vote to direct the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to amend the below listed sections of the Wolfeboro Beach Ordinance as follows:

16-2: a Brewster Beach parking lot access is limited to Wolfeboro residents, taxpayers and guests. Guests include overnight guests at any licensed hotel, motel, inn, boarding house, campground, lodging house, bed and breakfast or housekeeping cottages situated in the Town of Wolfeboro. Guests also include guests of Brewster Academy and participants in scheduled program events, such as swim meets and triathlons. And, to direct the Board of Selectmen to establish committee of volunteers to study the use of the Town Beaches and propose a unified plan for them.

DISCUSSION:

Attorney Puffer replied you cannot change the subject matter of the article.

Mr. Hodder stated based on the comments of Brewster Academy he feels this needs to be looked into further along with the other two town beaches.

Dave Moynohan addressed the article and questioned when the town is going to protect them, the residents of the road? He stated it is not fair that they have to listen to the noise from the beach.

Bobbi Boudman stated that the beach was not hosting swim team or swim lessons last season and was not manned with life guards.

Christine Collins replied that in a response to COVID 19 along with the changes of the other two town beaches, the decision was made to have a gate monitor and beach monitors at all three beaches last summer.

Call for the vote-being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Bobbi Boudman suggested a receipt from a town business on the day someone visits a beach as a suggestion for entry.

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Article 36: NH Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting (petition)

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Wolfeboro to see if the town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the Town of Wolfeboro to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Wolfeboro Selectmen to our state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of vote.

Moderator Walker stated that the Town Clerk has one item of new business.

Pat Waterman thanked our two outgoing Selectmen, Paul O'Brien and Dave Bowers who has served numerous years on the Board. She also stated 2020 was a sad year for all noting the loss of three active employees; Ricky LaPointe, Jerry Williams and John Craigie. She stated we also lost many former committee members/employees as follows: David Batstone, Oliver Champaigne Jr., Robert Copeland, Dennis Davey, Michael J. Galimberti, Lawrence Hamm, Benjamin Ladd, James Rankin and Evelyn Wentworth. And finally last but not least we lost our longtime resident Doris Ann Clough this year. She asked for a moment of silence in their remembrance.

Being no further business, Moderator Walker called for a motion to adjourn.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 11:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio
Recording Secretary
Town of Wolfeboro

Wolfeboro EDC Supports Dock Repairs/Extension

w/photo caption: Boats circle at Wolfeboro Town Docks waiting for a place to tie up
photo by Mary DeVries

Wolfeboro – The Town of Wolfeboro’s Economic Development Committee (EDC) supports 2021 Warrant Articles calling for the voters to appropriate \$850,000 for dock repairs (a bond issue) and \$300,000 (2021 cash item) to extend the four fingers in the middle of the recreational docks.

An analysis completed by the EDC estimates that the 18-24 additional boat spaces will bring a projected \$500,000 of additional revenue to downtown businesses in one season. This figure is based on the additional spaces being full only weekends and holidays. (Read the Report at wolfeboronh.us – Economic Development Committee.)

In submitting its report to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) last fall the EDC unanimously supported the extension of the town docks on Wolfeboro Bay as a top priority.

The Town’s 2019 Master Plan also calls for expansion of the town docks under two sections: **Transportation** “to provide access to Wolfeboro village core by boat,” and under **Economic Development** “to increase boat parking capacity and increase economic development.”

“We know the overall economic impact of expanding the docks will be remarkable,” said EDC Chairman Kathy Fairman Eaton. “We’ve identified 125 businesses within walking distance of the docks. If each business averages at least 4 employees, and several have more than that in the summer, that’s 500 families that could be helped by this investment.”

While discussing its support of the dock projects, the EDC considered surveying Wolfeboro businesses to find out how many tourism-related jobs might feel the effect.

“We realized this information would be very helpful for economic planning in general for everything from grant applications to public works projects,” she added.

With that in mind the EDC is working on a brief survey of Wolfeboro businesses which will be mailed to as many businesses as possible. Business owners will have the option of responding either on-line or by regular mail.

The Wolfeboro EDC was established by the Board of Selectmen in 1992 to serve in an advisory role with respect to economic development in Wolfeboro. It serves as an unofficial bridge between the public and private sectors in Wolfeboro and is appointed by the Selectmen.

February 2, 2021

Dear Wolfeboro voters,

My name is Bob Tougher and I live on Clark Road in Wolfeboro, in the vicinity of Brewster Beach. I am unable to attend the Deliberative Session this evening due to family Covid-19 concerns and I apologize for my absence.

Last June, the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen enacted a revised Wolfeboro Beach Ordinance that restricts parking at Albee and Carry Beaches, while leaving Brewster Beach open to the public with no restrictions on parking.

Brewster Beach is now the only beach open to the public with unrestricted parking and that has created logistical and behavioral problems this past summer. The parking lot and beach are very crowded most days with town residents and taxpayers as well as folks from other area towns, and in many cases other states. On some days cars have been illegally parked on nearby narrow streets, Clark Rd and Clipper Drive, with portions of the vehicles being in the travel lane of the road or on a resident's lawn. Also, residents of Wolfeboro who are regular attendees at Brewster Beach sometimes have trouble getting into the lot, and this is very unfair to the citizens who help fund the beaches through their property taxes.

As I mentioned, there were behavioral problems at Brewster Beach this last summer. Nearby residents had to put up with frequent loud music, alcohol and marijuana consumption on the beach, offensive language, dangerous jet-ski operation while picking up and dropping off passengers and aggressive driving into and out of the parking lot. Also there was dangerous barbecuing on the beach, and in one case causing a tree to go on fire. There was also a volleyball net set across the beach by the entrance, forcing people to go around the area. The beach was also frequently littered with trash.

Brewster Beach is owned by Brewster Academy and the parking lot is owned by the Town of Wolfeboro. I contacted Brewster Academy Administrators to get their feelings on how things went at Brewster Beach during this past summer season, and they informed me that they were very disappointed at all of the unpleasant activities and this was an untenable situation going forward. I showed the Brewster Administrators a copy of this petition warrant article before I submitted it and they approved it.

There are other beach options on Lake Wentworth and on Lake Winnepesaukee for folks from out of town. Wentworth and Ellacoya State Parks are state beaches, open to the public, and there are others as well.

Warrant Article 35 is straightforward, and the language is very similar to the sections in the Wolfeboro Beach Ordinance that apply to Carry and Albee Beaches. I hope this warrant article is approved by the voters in March.

Sincerely,
Bob Tougher

2-2-2021
Delb. Session Att #2

At 35

Brewster

HEAD OF SCHOOL

February 2, 2021

Statement from Brewster Academy Regarding Brewster Beach Warrant Article

To Members of the Wolfeboro Community,

The warrant article offered by Bob Tougher on the future of Brewster Beach is important to Brewster for a host of reasons. Most importantly, as part of our core vision we assert our commitment to partner meaningfully in Wolfeboro and engage as good neighbors.

We value our neighbors on Clark Road and those more far afield. We do not want Brewster Beach to cause disruption in the neighborhood. Therefore, we share concern over the issues that have been raised by this proposed warrant article, including trash, noise, and parking—the consequences of the closing of Albee and Carry beaches to non-Wolfeboro residents. Quite simply, decreasing the number of beaches available to the public resulted in an increased utilization of Brewster Beach. This of course was unintended, but now we have to address the consequences of this.

Second, at one level it would be easy for Brewster to limit the use of its beach for the needs of our students and programs by not renewing the lease with the town. (For many years, Brewster Academy has been pleased to allow the public to enjoy our beautiful beach by leasing it to the town for a token amount). Instead, we'd like to consider some possible solutions in service to the needs and desires of residents and non-residents alike. We thus ask that before the warrant article moves forward key stakeholders spend more time fully exploring further alternatives. Some potential options could include, reopening the two beaches that have been closed to non-residents, exploring what resources could be deployed by the town to enforce parking, and supervision to ensure appropriate behavior of beachgoers.

With the ongoing pandemic, we also recognize we may need to suspend our lease of Brewster Beach with the town in order to provide the appropriate safety and security measures. We will continue to work with the Wolfeboro Parks and Recreation Department on this as we move through the winter and spring.

Finally, we look forward to participating in ongoing conversations.

Sincerely,

Craig Gemmell
Head of School, Brewster Academy

2-2-2021
Delb. session At. #3

My name is Nancy Hirshberg. I live on Clark Rd, just up the road from Brewster Beach. When my daughter was young she spent time there most every day. I walk to Brewster Beach almost every day year-round. I have always been so proud that our wonderful beaches are free and open to the public.

Even before COVID, it became clear in recent years that our wonderful community has been discovered. It has created traffic and put pressure on many of our town's resources, including our docks, our rail trail and of course, our beautiful beaches. Covid has only exacerbated the situation. Wolfeboro is by no means unique. Desirable communities around the region and nation struggle with the same challenges. How do we in the face of this increased use protect our resources and maintain the quality of life that we love, without simply rolling up the welcome mat.

We are after all "the oldest summer resort in America" and have a long tradition of welcoming visitors. With 1 million visitors a year, the business community and our economy are heavily dependent on tourism.

I understand the sentiment which caused many in our community last year to vote to restrict parking to residents at two of our three beaches. And I understand why my wonderful neighbor Bob Tougher who I agree with on many issues, introduced this warrant article. But I say with enormous respect that I strongly disagree.

If Brewster Beach parking is closed to the public, we will be the oldest summer resort in America that invites you to visit and spend your money here, but don't use our beaches!

We absolutely need to take care of our beaches and protect them from erosion and damage. We absolutely need to make sure that residents can access them and have a positive experience there. And I GREATLY appreciate the excellent intentions of all involved in trying to protect the beaches for our community. But I believe there is a way for us to do this and still be the welcoming town that we have always been. I have seen it done in other communities. There is a balance, that we have not even tried to attain.

The piecemeal approach of limiting access by restricting public parking beach by beach does not serve our residents, our guests, or our businesses well. What we

2-2-2021
Delb. Session Att. #4

need is a comprehensive approach to all of our beaches. Let's study all three of the beaches and come up with a plan.

I urge you to vote no on this Warrant Article. I will be asking the Select Board to create a task force to research how other communities are addressing these challenges with the goal to bring their recommendations in the form of a Warrant Article to the voters next year at this meeting.

Thank you.